

soon to allow the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Wyoming to come to some agreement in finding a value for those lands by using an appraiser upon which they agree and then work out an arrangement to either trade those lands for other Federal lands outside the park, trade them for mineral royalties, or sell but come to some financial arrangement.

I hope we can get some support for something that will be useful to Grand Teton National Park as well as the State of Wyoming.

I think our time has expired. I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1077, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1077) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today, the Senate is debating S. 1077, the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001.

On June 1, 2001, President Bush asked Congress to consider a supplemental request for \$6.5 billion, primarily for the Department of Defense. The draft supplemental bill that is before us totals \$6.5 billion, not one dime above the President's request—not one thin dime above the President's request. It contains no emergency funding. The President has said that he will not support such emergency spending, so the Committee has not included any emergency designations in this bill. Unrequested items in the bill are offset.

S. 1077 funds the President's request for additional defense spending for health care, for military pay and benefits, for the high costs of natural gas and other utilities, for increased military flying hours, and for other purposes. The bill includes a net increase of \$5.54 billion for the Department of Defense and \$291 million for defense-related programs of the Department of Energy.

While the Appropriations Committee has approved most of the President's

request for the Department of Defense, I stress the importance of accountability for these and future funds. Financial accountability remains one of the weakest links in the Defense Department's budget process. Just last month, the General Accounting Office reported that, of \$1.1 billion earmarked for military spare parts in the fiscal year 1999 supplemental, only about \$88 million could be tracked to the purchase of spare parts. The remaining \$1 billion, or 92 percent of the appropriation, was transferred to operations and maintenance accounts, where the tracking process broke down.

Perhaps a substantial portion of the money appropriated for spare parts was spent on spare parts; perhaps it was not. But, given the way the money was managed, nobody knows for sure and that, it seems to me, is an unacceptable circumstance, because one thing we do know for sure is that an adequate inventory of spare parts is a key component of readiness and the Defense Department apparently does not have an adequate inventory of spare parts. So we must do better in making sure these dollars for spare parts go for spare parts.

The supplemental funding bill before us today includes another \$30 million for spare parts, this time specifically for the Army. As former President Reagan would have said, here we go again. To forestall a repeat of the problems that arose in accounting for spare parts expenditures provided in the fiscal year 1999 supplemental, the committee, at my request, approved report language requiring the Secretary of Defense to follow the money and to provide Congress with a complete accounting of all supplemental funds appropriated for spare parts. The intent of this provision is to ensure that money appropriated by Congress for the purchase of spare parts does not get shifted into any other program.

The supplemental appropriations bill, as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, provides \$300 million for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, an increase of \$150 million above the President's request, to help our citizens cope with high energy costs. The bill also includes \$161 million that was not requested for grants to local education agencies under the Education for the Disadvantaged Program in response to the most recent poverty and expenditure data. Also provided is \$100 million as an initial United States contribution to a global trust fund to combat AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. In addition, \$92 million requested by the President for the Coast Guard is included, as is \$115.8 million requested for the Treasury Department for the cost of processing and mailing out the tax rebate checks.

In addition, the bill includes \$84 million for the Radiation Exposure Trust Fund to provide compensation to the victims of radiation exposure. We thank Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN for their leadership in assisting

those who were involved in the mining of uranium ore and those who were downwind from nuclear weapons tests during the Cold War.

The Senate Appropriations Committee's bill includes a number of offsets to pay for these additional items. Members should be on notice that, with passage of this bill, we are at the statutory cap for budget authority in Fiscal Year 2001. I say to colleagues on both sides of the aisle that any amendments that are offered will need to be offset. Exceeding the statutory cap could result in an across-the-board cut in all discretionary spending, both for defense programs and for non-defense programs. I urge Members to avoid the spectacle of a government-wide sequester by finding appropriate offsets for amendments.

There is another reason to insist on offsets for any additional spending. During debate on the recent tax-cut bill, I argued that the tax cuts contained in that bill could return the Federal budget to the deficit ditch. I stressed that the tax cuts were based on highly suspect ten-year surplus estimates and that if those estimates proved illusory, the tax-cut bill would result in spending the Medicare surplus. Now, before the ink is even dry on the President's signature on that tax bill, we may find ourselves headed back into the deficit ditch and headed in the direction of cutting into the Medicare surplus.

Our distinguished Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, KENT CONRAD, has prepared an analysis of the budget picture for Fiscal Year 2001, the current fiscal year, based on recent economic projections from the President's own Director of the National Economic Council, Lawrence Lindsey. The tax-cut bill reduced the surplus by \$74 billion in Fiscal Year 2001 alone. As a result, Chairman CONRAD is projecting a raid on the Medicare Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2001 of \$17 billion.

Any efforts to increase spending in this bill without offsets will only make this problem worse.

The President asserted in his Budget Blueprint that the authority of the Congress and the President to designate funding as an emergency has been abused. The Administration has indicated in its Statement of Administration Policy of June 19, 2001, that the President does not intend to designate the \$473 million of emergency funding contained in the House-passed bill as emergency spending.

The administration further states that, "emergency supplemental appropriations should be limited to extremely rare events." The Senate supplemental bill contains no emergency designations. Nonetheless, I do believe that it is appropriate for Congress and the President to use the emergency authority from time to time in response to natural disasters and other truly unforeseen events in the nature of disasters.